

Changes to Arden tree policy

In the spirit of restoring native landscapes and the continuance of Arden being a Tree City USA, the Trustees are revising the Tree Removal Policy.

Permits are now being handled electronically. The form and policy are on the Trustees section of the www.arden.delaware.gov website. If you need a written form, please contact us and we will provide one. The phone number is 302-475-7980.

The Trustees now require a permit to take out all trees over 6" in diameter, a change from the previous 18", because there are many valuable slow growing native trees we need to protect. If you need to take a tree down and have submitted a permit, please consider replacing with a native tree, we can advise which tree will work in your site.

The major change comes with a ban. We now prohibit planting Norway maple (*Acer plantanoides*), Japanese maple (*Acer japonica*) Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford'). In fact, we urge all leaseholders to consider removing these highly invasive species. You will not need a tree form for these trees, no matter what size. If you wish to replant with a Japanese maple, please request approval from the Trustees. There are some which are not as much of an invasive problem and we can suggest specific varieties. A list of native species is posted on the Trustees section of the www.arden.delaware.gov website.

We are beginning a new program, this year we are registering all ash trees on leaseholds with the aim of in treating the trees for Emerald Ash borer, a significant pest that has decimated ash tree populations across the country since 2008. The Trustees will aid in this effort. Contact Carol Larson at carol2339@verizon.net to register your ash trees.

As always, the Trustees are available for your questions and comments. You may reach us at: trustees.of.arden@gmail.com or by phone at 302-475-7980.